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Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 INR-07 L-03
ACDA-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 PRS-01 SP-02 TRSE-00
NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 /054 W
----------104699 191905Z /45
O 191715Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY MADRID
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1444
SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE
USMISSION NATO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY ROME IMMEDIATE
INFO USNMR SHAPE IMMEDIATE
USCINCEUR IMMEDIATE
CINCUSAREUR IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N TI A L MADRID 6189

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MPOL, NATO, SP
SUBJ: SPAIN AND NATO: INVITING SPAIN TO ALLIED MANEUVERS

REF: (A) NATO 7906 (DTG 181752Z AUG 77)
(B) ROME 13370 (DTG 171645Z AUG 77)
(C) MADRID 6147 (DTG 181052Z AUG 77) NOTAL
(D) 76 ROME 20146 (DTG 101725Z DEC 76) NOTAL

1. COMMENTS IN MADRID REFTEL (C) REMAIN VALID. OUR STRONG PREFERENCE IS TO OBTAIN INVITATIONS FOR SPANISH OBSERVERS, INCLUDING ONES FROM MADRID, TO ALLIED GROUND EXERCISES THIS FALL IF AT ALL POSSIBLE. RECENT PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS AND INAUGURATION OF BICAMERAL LEGISLATURE PROVIDES BOTH EVIDENCE OF SPAIN'S DEMOCRATIC CREDENTIALS AND FORUM FOR EXPECTED DEBATE ON POSSIBLE
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ACCESSION TO NATO. IT IS IMPORTANT THAT ENCOURAGEMENT BE OFFERED IN EVERY POSSIBLE FIELD, AND TO THIS END WE HAVE ADVOCATED INVITATIONS AS A MEANS OF SHOWING ALLIED INTEREST IN SPAIN AND OF INCREASING SPANISH KNOWLEDGE OF THE ALLIANCE.

2. BELGIAN INVITATIONS EXTENDED TO ALLIES IN LATE JUNE

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FOR BLUE FOX NEED NOT PRECLUDE LATE INVITATIONS TO NEWLY-DEMOCRATIC SPAIN. NATO ORIENTATION OF BELGIAN PRESENTATION MAY PRESENT PROBLEMS, BUT WE BELIEVE THAT MINOR HURDLES COULD BE OVERCOME IF GREATER ADVANTAGES WERE KEPT IN MIND.

3. US FORCES CONDUCT SEMIANNUAL PHIBLEX EXERCISES IN CARBONERAS ON SOUTHEAST COAST OF SPAIN, WITH SPANISH OBSERVERS OR PARTICIPANTS FOR EACH EXERCISE. IN LIGHT OF THIS LONG-STANDING RELATIONSHIP, EMBASSY SEES LITTLE TO BE GAINED BY EXTENDING AN INVITATION FOR A SOLELY US EXERCISE AS SUGGESTED IN ROME'S 13370, EVEN THOUGH CONDUCTED ON ITALIAN SOIL. EMBASSY AND JUSMG MADRID UNAWARE OF ANY INVITATIONS BY ITALIAN MILITARY TO SPANISH FOR OBSERVERS AT EXERCISES IN PAST YEARS.

4. HOWEVER, US ARMY AND SPANISH ARMY ARE VERY INTERESTED IN EXCHANGE TRAINING BETWEEN SPANISH PARACHUTE BRIGADE AND US AIRBORNE BATTALION STATIONED IN ITALY. SUCH TRAINING WAS PROPOSED LAST FALL BUT TURNED OFF BY EMBASSY ROME (REFTEL D) DUE TO POLITICAL QUESTIONS AT THAT TIME. IT MIGHT BE FEASIBLE AT THIS TIME, AND IN LIGHT OF REFTELS, TO REOPEN THIS SUBJECT. REQUEST COMMENTS.

5. SPANISH MANEUVER TO BE HELD IN OCTOBER IS AN ANNUAL
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EXERCISE, TO WHICH ATTACHES IN MADRID ARE ROUTINELY INVITED. WE EXPECT TO RECEIVE INVITATION FOR THIS EXERCISE AFTER AUGUST HOLIDAYS. PREVIOUS INVITATIONS DID NOT CITE THE CSCE CONNECTION, BUT IT COULD WELL SERVE AS A PEG IF WE SO WISH.

6. RECOMMEND THAT BELGIANS BE APPROACHED AGAINS, USING ARGUMENTS IN PARAS 1 AND 2. RECOMMEND THAT EMBASSY COPENHAGEN OR MISSION NATO APPROACH DANES WITH POSSIBILITY OF OPENING INVITATIONS TO MADRID-BASED OBSERVERS, AS DISCUSSED IN MADRID REFTEL. REQUEST EMBASSY ROME AND OTHER ADDRESSEES EVALUATE SUGGESTION PARA 4.STABLER

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Control Number: n/a
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Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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